

# MYRTLE MATTERS

## Past Career of the Pioneer Boat Club.

The Myrtle Boat Club was organized on the 5th day of February 1883. This was the first regularly organized boat club in these islands. Up to that time the aquatic events here had been participated in principally by the crews of his late Majesty Kalakaua and of such men-of-war, American and English, as passed through here from time to time; and were enlivened occasionally by domestic aspirants for the honors.

The Myrtle Club was an unpretentious organization. The original membership was only seven, and the club had, to start with, only one boat, the renowned four-oared gig "Red, White and Blue."

Since the organization of this club various competitors have gone down before the champions except the present Healan Yacht and Boat Club.

The first sliding-seat boat race ever rowed in Hawaiian waters was rowed on the late King's birthday, November 16, 1884. There were five starters over the three and a half mile course. The race was rowed in six-oared barges. The Myrtles won in a glorious finish; the now defunct "Honolulu" were a close second, the "Kapiolani" third, and two of the King's crews respectively fourth and fifth. There has not been such another race rowed in Honolulu harbor since, and the subsequent success of the Myrtle Club is due largely to its great victory in 1884.

The names of those who took part in that memorable race are worth noting. In the Myrtle boat sat Oscar Branch, Harry Robinson, Fred Wundenber, Charles Purdy, Alex. Lyle and Jim Savidge. In the Honolulu crew were Willcott Morse, George Markham, Hay Wodehouse, John Holt, Jack Dowsett and Harry Whitney. The Kapiolani crew, nicknamed "The Fenians," was composed of six stalwart Irishmen under the management of the genial Larry Dee. The King's crews were trained by the redoubtable Robert Parker. The Myrtle's record in that race over the bell buoy course, 22 minutes and 29 seconds, has never been beaten.

The Honolulu Yacht and Boat Club which for a while gave such great promise as a competitor for aquatic honors, went out of business in 1890. In the mean time the "Eclipse Boat Club" had sprung into existence and had been absorbed by the conquering Myrtles.

Kalakaua died in 1891, and with his demise ended the regular regattas that had for so many years taken place on his birthday anniversaries.

The first "Healan" club arose out of the ashes of the old "Honolulu," and it is due largely to the competition of that club that the Myrtles survived a period of stagnation and still live to tell the tale of many glorious victories as well as of several hard fought defeats. During these many years the Myrtle club has even been to the front in the development of rowing in these waters, as the heavy stationary seat gig gave way to the sliding-seat barge, which has in turn developed into the up-to-date racing shell.

The present chief competitor of the Myrtles is the Healan Club, which was reorganized on a new basis in 1895 under the name of the Healan Yacht and Boat Club, and this new club has beyond question proved to be the most vigorous antagonist that the Myrtles have had to contend with.

The first boat house of the Myrtle Club was situated on the water's edge at the foot of Alakea street above the Pacific Mail wharf at a point now far inland; subsequently a larger house was built on the present site of the club's quarters at Kakaako. The house, which has since been enlarged, and which has been the scene of so many jolly festivities is about to be removed to a point seawards of the channel wharf, where with a fine view of ocean and mountain and beautifully clean bathing, the members will enjoy themselves and entertain their friends in renovated and more commodious quarters.

The record of the Myrtle Boat Club is one that any organization might well be proud of. Out of fifty-one races that the club has rowed against all comers since its organization, it counts thirty-five victories and fifteen defeats, one race having been declared "off." The total membership is now nearly 200. As an exponent of honest sport and a promoter of healthful exercise the club has been a factor for good of no small importance in this community. The present officers of the club are: President, A. G. M. Robertson; vice-president, A. Perry; secretary, J. F. Soper; treasurer, Charles Crane; captain (acting), W. W. Harris; auditor, G. S. Harris, Jr.; trustees, A. A. Wilder and W. H. Soper.

A synopsis of the history of the club would be incomplete without making special mention of the great "strokes" that have made the Myrtles famous as winners of races; notable among them are, Oscar Branch, Alfred Carter, Oiaf Sorenson and Willie Lyle; and of the club's captains, to whose patriotic and thorough work the club largely owes its present prestige. In the latter list we find the names of Torbert, Crane, Angus, Judd and Harris.

Lack of space prevents the enumeration of the names of others who have contributed in various ways to the well-being of the club.

To its younger and more vigorous members the club will confide the task of maintaining its high standing in the future.



## BUSY YEAR OF THE MAILE ILIMA ATHLETIC CLUB

In August 1899, there gathered at the home of one of their members thirteen young men, former students of the Honolulu High School and organized the Maile Ilima Athletic Club, now the foremost athletic club of the city.

At that time sports in the way of baseball, football, and track and field athletics had practically died out and it was for the purpose of reviving, encouraging and promoting such sports that these young men organized the Maile Ilima Athletic Club.

Their choice as first president of the club was Chas. P. Elston, a well-known athlete of Honolulu and one who had greatly assisted them in the past when playing under the colors of the High School.

The name Maile Ilima, and the colors Green and Gold, taken from the sweet scented Hawaiian vine "maile" and the favorite flower "ilima" was suggested by G. F. Wright and all the members agreed that no better name could be given to a Honolulu Athletic Club.

As the football season was approaching, a team was organized in September with the president of the club, Chas. P. Elston, as captain, and during the months of October and November played four games of football, one with Oahu college and three with a team called St. Louis.

The results were not very gratifying to the Maile Ilimas, Oahu college defeating them by a score of 18 to 6, and after playing two hard fought games with the St. Louis boys they were defeated by them in the third game.

Thus ended the year 1899, but the Maile Ilimas nowise discouraged determined to stick together and win out in the end if possible.

The membership of the club had increased to about thirty, but as yet no permanent quarters had been found for club rooms.

In January of 1900, the officers for the ensuing year were elected: president, R. D. King; vice-president, G. F. Wright; secretary, G. W. Lucas; treasurer, E. K. Allen; property man, J. K. Clarke.

In May the Y. M. C. A. organized an indoor basketball league, a new form of athletics in these islands, but one which had taken a great hold on the sport-loving people.

Six teams entered the league, the Sophomores, a team from Oahu College, the Business Men, a team made up of the young business men of the town; the Diamond Heads, and Honolulu, made up of Y. M. C. A. members, the Maile Ilimas from the club of that name and the Green and Gold, a second Maile Ilima team.

The season extended to the end of June, the Maile Ilimas gaining the championship by winning every game they played; scoring 88 points to their opponents 15.

The summer of 1900 was noted for the absence of any enthusiasm in the baseball line, the games played were the interscholastic series between Oahu College and Kamehameha school.

However, to beguile away the moonlight evenings during the months of July and August, the Maile Ilima Athletic Club instituted a series of paper chases, which the boys enjoyed immensely and also profited by.

On October 13, the Y. M. C. A. gave an athletic meet at Punahou, in which no clubs were allowed to enter, only individuals. Four members of the M. I. A. C. entered, winning three firsts and four seconds.

There was no lack of enthusiasm for football as in baseball and the Maile Ilimas were determined to show Honolulu that the defeats of the previous year had not discouraged them a whit, and under the captaincy of E. V. Richardson were improving wonderfully. Out Punahou way the college boys were working hard and coached by W. Williamson, intended to capture the football pennant of 1900. But it was not to be. The wearers of the blue over at Camp McKinley suddenly got an idea that football would do a great deal towards lessening the monotony of camp life so they also organized a football team.

In October the representatives of

the season of 1901 has been a very active one and the members of the Pacific Tennis Club have contributed a great deal toward making it so. A number of club tournaments have been held which has tended to raise the standard of play; also a men's double tournament, open to all, given in the fall of the year and inaugurated about three years ago.

A pair of silver cups was put up in 1899, open to all, for men's doubles, to be won three times by the same players in order to become their property. For three years they were held as follows:

1899 by F. C. Atherton and C. H. Cooke.

1900 by C. A. Elston and D. M. Ross.

1901 by W. F. Dillingham and W. Roth.

The "Alexander" cup, presented by

Oahu College, the Artillery and the Maile Ilima Athletic Club met at the Y. M. C. A. and decided to play a series of three games for the championship of the season of 1900.

The first game was played at the Punahou grounds between the Maile Ilimas and the soldiers, the former winning by a score of 5 to 0; Wilson, the big half back for the Mailes, making the only touchdown.

The second game of the series was between the Oahu College boys and the soldiers from Camp McKinley. The game came out a tie, the score standing 0 to 0.

The third and last game resulted in a glorious victory for the Maile Ilimas against the Oahu College boys by a score of 11 to 6, thus wiping out the defeat of the year before. In the first half the students had it all their own way, making a touchdown and goal, the Mailes not scoring. In the second half the club boys had it their way, and without losing the ball once made two touchdowns and one goal.

In the early part of December the manager of the Punahou Alumni football team issued a challenge to the Maile Ilimas for a friendly game of football on Christmas day, and it was promptly accepted. It was one of the best games ever played in Honolulu, neither side being able to score.

By this time the membership of the club had been greatly added to and to accommodate the increase the hall over the offices of J. F. Colburn on Kanuhimanu street was generously loaned by that gentleman.

At the end of the year 1900, the Maile Ilima Athletic Club had won a name and place in the athletic field and were recognized as being no mean opponents.

Nothing was done by the club until April, 1901, when the Maile Ilimas played the Business Men a game of basketball for the championship of the city for 1901. The Business Men had won the Y. M. C. A. championship, but were challenged by the M. I. A. C., the champions of 1900, who defeated them by a score of 17 to 14, thus winning the pennant two years in succession.

In May the M. I. A. C. issued an invitation to Oahu College and Kamehameha School to run a mile relay race. The Oahu College team won handsomely, Kamehameha School came in second and the Mailes failed to cross the line.

In June the Honolulu Base Ball League was formed, consisting of five teams, the Honolulu Athletic Club's nine, a new organization, the Maile Ilima Athletic Club's nine, the Artillery, the Police and the Star nines.

The season lasted two months, the H. A. C.'s team winning the championship; the Maile Ilimas took fourth place, but as it is their first attempt at baseball they are not discouraged and will try again.

The football season of 1901 opened with four eleven in the field for championship honors. The Punahou Athletic Club, a new club but composed mainly of old Punahou players, entered a team, as did the Honolulu Athletic Club, the Artillery Corps from Camp McKinley and the Maile Ilimas. The Mailes played three games, the first with the Honolulu, score 0 to 0; the second with the Punahou, score 0 to 0, and the third with the soldiers, score 16-10 in the Mailes favor.

The Punahou Athletic Club gained the championship having won two games and tied one. The M. I. A. C. came second with one game and two ties.

The Maile Ilimas won only one championship in 1901, namely, the basketball, but have made a good showing in the other branches of athletics and hope to do better in the future.

The membership of the club is about eighty, the finances are in good condition, although the club is by no means a rich institution and the outlook for the coming year is very bright.

The present officers are: President, R. D. King; Vice-President, J. J. Belser; Recording Secretary, S. A. Crook; Financial Secretary, G. W. Lucas; Treasurer, G. F. Wright; Master of Property, Robt. McCortison; Trustee, Frank Rowland; Trustee, S. F. Chillingworth, Jr.; Manager of Athletics, G. W. Lucas.

Mr. W. M. Alexander of San Francisco, is offered for competition to the members of the Pacific Tennis Club only for singles, and is to be played for, about three weeks before the regular championship games come off in the spring. The idea is to stimulate the members into good hard playing before the big events are played. This cup must be won three times by the same person before it becomes his property. In the 1901 championship games for the islands the men's singles was won by F. C. Atherton, and the men's doubles by E. R. Adams and A. T. Brock, all members of the Pacific Tennis Club.

The officers of the Pacific Tennis Club are as follows:

E. R. Adams, president; Geo. S. Waterhouse, secretary and treasurer; S. G. Wilder, superintendent.

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## THE GROWTH OF POLO AND ITS BID FOR FAVORITISM

Not until the first match at Moanalua last April between the Maui and Oahu teams had the interest of the Honolulu public been aroused to the exhilarating game of polo.

The game had its first introduction in the islands, however, some twenty years previous to this, upon Hawaii, where some Australians, on a ranch got together a few enthusiasts and formed the Kohala Polo Club, playing the English game as they had learned it in the Colonies.

With the removal of the Burkhardts to Maui, the game died out on Hawaii and came into prominence near the ranch, where the above mentioned family were located. Here polo made such strides that a club, the Maui Polo Club, was organized and many an exciting match played. Naturally enough, most of the players being ranchmen, their riding was reckless and daring. Then, having the pick of many horses at their disposal, many fine little ponies were discovered and developed into bantailed polo ponies.

The games upon Maui were carried on in true English style, the ponies being kept up like race horses and the players sporting bright colors in their uniforms.

This was the only polo in the islands during this time. The interest was confined to Maui, which is generally credited with having started polo here. It was the same men, however, who started the game on both islands and coming by the way of Australia, that is why the English instead of the American game has been played here until recently.

With the advent of a few Maui men to Honolulu, however, came the inception of polo on Oahu.

In April a team of four was chosen to represent the Oahu Polo Club that had been duly organized with S. E. Damon, president.

Anxious to test their prowess, a match was arranged with Maui, to be played in Honolulu, as it was calculated to give polo a stimulus here, also to furnish valuable experience to the newly initiated Oahu boys. Accordingly a team from the Mokawao Polo Club, which is a recent outgrowth of the old Maui Polo Club, came down to try conclusions. They brought their ponies and naturally created a great interest in Honolulu among many interested in sport, but who had never seen a game of polo.

The day set for the first game saw a great crowd wending their way to Moanalua to witness the initial contest in Oahu. Much to the surprise of the

crowd and especially the Maui men, the Oahu boys overcame the seeming odds and had no difficulty in winning the game, 9 to 3.

Maui played a strong game, making much longer shots where they connected with the ball, but Oahu, while their strokes were shorter, were always sure and to that they attribute their success. Not at all satisfied with the result, Maui asked for another game two days later, and again did they suffer a defeat, this time by a score of 10 to 5.

Desiring to retrieve their lost polo reputation, last July Maui sent to Oahu a challenge for a return match at Makawao. Oahu accepted the invitation and with S. E. Damon in Fleming's place, went to Maui the last of that same month. Here Maui had the advantage of home grounds and put her strongest four upon the field—Frank Baldwin, Bailey, Lopp and Fleming.

It was a holiday at Palai, and a great crowd assembled on the fine grounds of the Makawao Club, which are situated on the table lands in that district. Japs, Chinese and natives from the surrounding plantations helped to make one of the most cosmopolitan crowds that ever saw a polo match in the United States.

Eleven to nothing in favor of Oahu tells the story in the fewest words. The Honolulu boys simply had everything their own way, playing better individually and as a team. At the same time they were better mounted. While the Maui team tried to put a stubborn defense, they were wholly outclassed.

Since that time no inter-island games have been played, but the Polo Club has been reorganized, taking in many recruits, and a system of individual handicapping and the American rules have been adopted.

Play has temporarily been transferred to Kapiolani Park, while the polo grounds at Moanalua are undergoing repairs and changes that will make them of the highest order. This has given to many an opportunity of seeing polo and becoming interested, as many good matches have taken place there this fall between the club members, who have formed teams and conducted a tournament, now in progress.

Polo bids fair to become one of Hawaii's most popular games, as all the local conditions favor the growth and success of this manly sport.

The officers of the Oahu Polo Club are as follows:

President, S. E. Damon; vice president, J. P. Cooke; secretary, J. L. Fleming; treasurer, G. C. Potter; captain, W. F. Dillingham; directors, A. F. Judd, Lieutenant Hancock.

## THE INFANT OF BERETANIA CLUB IN LOCAL TENNIS

The Honolulu Athletic Club was organized in May, 1901, with a charter membership of about fifty. The object in forming the club was to put before the young men of Honolulu an organization in which they could enjoy the many advantages of physical culture and development at practically no expense.

Up to the present time the club has been striving to thrive under heavy disadvantages owing to the lack of a suitable club room in which to maintain a gymnasium and reading room. This one great drawback has been overcome to a large extent owing to the fact they have secured a long lease of the upper floor of the "Petts Building" on Alakea street, makai of the Pacific mill, and are already fitting it up with complete up-to-date gymnasium, bath rooms and lockers, which will be ready by January 1st, 1902. As soon as they get settled in their new quarters it is the intention of the club to give monthly entertainments in their rooms for the members.

Keys will be given to all members and they are welcome with their guests at all times; but no person not a member of the club will be allowed in the club rooms unless he be with a member.

All the daily papers of Honolulu and San Francisco, together with all the leading periodicals can be found in the club rooms; card, checker and chess tables are also at the disposal of the members.

One night each week will be devoted to the instruction of boxing, fencing and wrestling. Every other night when there is some game on will find an instructor in the gymnasium to get the contestants into the best possible form.

The Honolulu Athletic Club will enter a team in all amateur athletic events with the intention and endeavor of carrying off the laurels and if they are beaten it will be only after a hard battle. During the first six months of its organization it has wrested the baseball championship from the "Stars," which team had held it from 1895. They were defeated in the race for the football championship simply on account of lack of training and management, but it is safe to say with proper coaching they will stand a good chance of obtaining that championship for the year 1902.

The club is only seven months old yet it has the largest membership of any athletic club in Honolulu. Its charter calls for about 50 and it has on its list today 110 members, among whom can be found some of the best known business men here.

The Honolulu Athletic Club wishes to extend to its sister clubs its hearty greetings for the new year.

All through the year exceptional interest has been shown by members of the club, three courts being frequently going at the same time, and there has been no difficulty in keeping the membership up to the limit, in fact, there have been several names on the waiting list since the first of the year.

While there has been no set day for ladies, many have availed themselves of the privilege of playing, especially in the morning. The courts are now about two years old and were never in better condition. Additions have recently been made to the club house in the shape of lockers, etc., and it is no exaggeration to say that it is as cozy and comfortable as can be wished for.

In the annual spring tournament held last May the Beretania men made a gallant fight but lost both in the singles and doubles, Elston, winner of the finals, going down before the steady playing of Frank Atherton, and Elston and Ross losing to Brock and Adams, after some of the most spirited and exciting tennis ever witnessed here. Again in the invitation doubles tournament, held in September under the auspices of the Pacific Tennis Club, Elston and Ross were defeated by Dillingham and Roth, after winning two straight sets; the superior lasting qualities of the Pacific men virtually winning them the victory.

The Beretania held an invitation singles tournament immediately following and had the good fortune to come out winners, Chas. Elston carrying off the cup after many a hard tussle. In this tournament Willie Roth of the Pacific was his most formidable opponent and played with his old time stroke which gave him the championship three or four years ago. Mention should also be made of the playing of Alfred Castle of the Beretania, in the spring tournament; he was in the semifinals and considering his age put up a remarkable game. It is the club's misfortune that he has since left the islands for Harvard, where he will undoubtedly give a good account of himself.

It is gratifying to the older players to see such active interest taken by the younger fellows, boys at school, two of whom have this year joined the junior branch of the club.

Following is a list of officers of the club:

President, E. H. Paris; Vice-President, E. H. Wodehouse; Secretary, C. A. Mackintosh; Treasurer, E. A. R. Ross; Auditor, W. C. Parke; Captain, C. A. Elston; Trustees—W. A. Wall, Carl du Roi, H. C. Austin.

# HEALANI HISTORY

## The Record and Growth of Blue Banner.

"Great oaks from little acorns grow." No truer simile could be drawn relative to the growth and development of the Healan Yacht and Boat Club during its life of only a comparatively few years. The old Healan Boat Club was organized on March 25th, 1890, by C. A. Widemann, A. L. C. Atkinson, Ed Stiles, Acland Wansley, David Morton and W. H. C. Greig, the object of these sportsmanlike gentlemen being to offer a competitor to the Myrtle Boat Club, which was then a very thriving institution.

Many were the discouragements, as is ever the case when a weakling attempts to conquer an older and stronger rival. Hampered by lack of men, lack of money and poor boats, the members of the Healan club stuck to it, rowing one race after another knowing full well that they would be beaten before ever the starting shot was fired. Pluck and perseverance told in the end, as it always will, and as a result the Healan Yacht and Boat Club, their successors, are the present champions in local aquatics, both in shell and barge racing. The three presidents of the old Healan Boat Club were C. A. Widemann, Ed Stiles and J. N. S. Williams, while the three captains were W. H. C. Greig, C. W. Macfarlane and A. L. C. Atkinson. No record having been kept, it is impossible to give a resume of these races, but owing to the adverse conditions above stated, the Myrtles were successful in the majority of cases.

The Healan Yacht and Boat Club was incorporated on the 15th day of November, 1894, by George E. Boardman, L. de L. Ward, C. F. Herrick, A. L. C. Atkinson and Albert Lucas. During the early years of its existence, in fact during its whole history almost up to the present time, the advance in rowing of this club has been sadly hampered by the scarcity of boats, as compared with their rival, the Myrtle club. Crews have had to train in one boat, and then row the race in another which was rigged in an entirely different manner from the boat that they had trained in. This has been especially true of the junior crews, and as a result the H. Y. & B. C. has not made nearly as good a showing in the junior as in championship events.

The following officials have been elected at various times since 1894, several of whom have served for two terms as is the case with the present President, Mr. Walter E. Wall:

Presidents: Geo. E. Boardman, T. F. Lansing, Cecil Brown, George R. Carter, Walter Wall.

Captains: C. W. Macfarlane, C. F. Herrick, Walter Wall, Geo. Carter, F. W. Klebahn, A. L. C. Atkinson, E. J. C. Church.

During the year just closing, racing from the standpoint of the wearers of the blue has been eminently satisfactory. The shell races at Pearl Harbor on July 4th, which of course decided the real rowing championship, were won hands down. The juniors almost distanced their rivals, while the seniors, when they finally woke up and realized that they were in a race, left their plucky opponents as if they were an ox. On Regatta Day the Healan six-oared barge was duplicating the six-oared barge of a few years before, when the unfortunate and much discussed foul took place, but there can be no question, but that the Blue would have waved again victoriously if the race had been fairly finished. The freshman race was lost to a much superior crew, in fact to the best freshman crew Honolulu has ever seen. The shell race was practically won by a default, as no club had the sand to enter a crew against the victors of the early summer. The intermediate race turned out as all expected it would. The Healan crew lost simply because they had only trained a few days, owing to the lack of patriotism of a few old carsmen who would not come out until the last moment. This crew rowed in far better form than did the Myrtles, and with proper training could have won out with ease. The pair-oar was an upset of all calculations, and while we do not wish to belittle the splendid rowing of the victorious Myrtles, the result was unquestionably due to the fact that the representatives of the Healan Club were worn out by the two races that they had taken part in earlier in the day.

Now, at the opening of a new year, the prospects for the Blue and White are bright indeed. The club has a large and enthusiastic membership, with governing officials who were in a majority of cases elected unanimously. Numbers of old oarsmen are ready to take their seats again. There are many new applicants for the crews, and above all, now for the first time in the club history, there are plenty of good boats. A new shell has been ordered from England, which will be here in March or early in April; this, with the boats now on hand, gives the club three four-oared shells, three Australian lapstreak fours, two six-oared barges and a pair-oar, a good showing indeed.

It is the purpose of the management to purchase another six-oared racing barge and if possible a coaching launch to follow the crews during their training. Rowing is by far the best sport for this semi-tropical climate, and has furthermore been kept, by all the clubs, absolutely clean and free from any taint of professionalism. Let us all unite to keep it so, and may the best crew ever win!